

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15

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R 201954Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6860

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 04537

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CZ, EEWT, FR

SUBJECT: CZECHS TO SIGN ECON AGREEMENT IN APRIL

REF: PRAGUE 58; PRAGUE 195

1. CZECH POLCOUNSELOR LORENC TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 20 THAT IT NOW VIRTUALLY CERTAIN CZECH FONMIN CHNOUPEK WILL SIGN THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT DURING HIS APRIL VISIT TO PARIS, WHICH CZECH FOREIGN TRADE MIN BARCAK HAD DISCUSSED HERE IN JANUARY. AGREEMENT WILL BE OF FIVE YEAR DURATION AND, LORENC THOUGHT, PROVIDES A "MOST ENCOURAGING BASIS" FOR GRADUALLY RAISING VIRTUALLY NEGLIGIBLE FRENCH-CZECH TRADE TO LEVELS MORE COMPARABLE TO PRAGUE'S TRADE WITH THE FRG.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT LORENC EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT GISCARD'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFREEZING FRENCH-CZECH TIES, WHICH HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY DORMANT SINCE
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CZECH INVASION, RESULTING IN FONMIN CHNOUPEK'S UPCOMING

VISIT TO FRANCE, THE FIRST SUCH EVENT SINCE 1967.
CZECHS, LORENC VOLUNTEERED, WERE ALSO QUITE PLEASED WITH
THEIR CURRENT RELATIONS WITH THE FRG, AND SEEMED AT
PAINS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT SHARE CURRENT
POLISH IRRITATIONS WITH BONN, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A
"SPECIAL PROBLEM." LORENC ALSO HAD A FEW KIND WORDS
ABOUT CURRENT RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., CAREFULLY AVOID-
ING ANY REFERENCE TO RECENT PROBLEMS OVER THE TRADE
AGREEMENT.
STONE

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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